



The OSCILLATOR

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Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club



"MY TWO CENTS" Pat Roberson

What is volunteerism? Webster defines it as "...the act or practice of doing volunteer work in community service." Ham radio operators are by nature a generous group of volunteers, devoting countless hours of community service in the guise of ARES, Marathons, Parades, and many other events throughout the year.

Spring and early summer seems to be the most active time hams get involved in public service, swap meets, Field Day, and *Sea-Pac*.

I am putting out a plea for volunteers from our club. The Club's *Sea-Pac* Committee is looking for volunteers to fill in positions for Security, Prize Committee, and where volunteers are needed. Our club reaps the benefits of *Sea-Pac*, but we lack an equal number of volunteers compared to other clubs in the area that support *Sea-Pac*. OTVARC is the sponsoring club. We should have the largest number of volunteers.

The *Sea-Pac* Committee is composed of members of several clubs, but it is a function of OTVARC and reports to the OTVARC Board of Directors.

See TWO CENTS, Page 4

APE & ARRL MERGE

The Association of Public Employees (APE) has announced it's intent to merge the American Radio Relay League into the Association effective April 1, 2010. The merger will result in the world's largest grouping of public servants. Bertram Thrush, APE national executive, explains that his organization negotiated the merger in the interest of providing emergency communications using well-prepared volunteers providing communications services directed by public employees.

APE foresees passing most functional emergency activity to the volunteer wing of the merged organization. He is taking steps to assure volunteer-members that they will be free to continue the hobby aspects of amateur radio as long as they do not interfere with their public obligations. Current employees of ARRL have been assured that the APE will continue their salary and benefits at present levels. Officials of the ARRL were unavailable for comment at deadline. Bertram Thrush N0000 has served APE in his present role for ten years.

See APE, Page 4

CLUB MEETING

WEDNESDAY, April 14th

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a *Special Service Club*. We meet at The Peppermill Restaurant, 17455 SW Farmington Road, Beaverton, beginning at 7:00 pm. Come at 6:00 pm and enjoy a dinner off the menu before the club meeting opens.

Our April program will feature Craig Adams, Radio Historian, with "Early Oregon Radio History." Craig was in broadcasting for 29 years. He authored two books on discography, and is consultant for the new book "Pioneer Mike's." He has been a radio historian for 19 years and is an avid radio DXer.

Guests are always welcome. An amateur radio license is not required.

HAM SATELLITE TRACKING

Have you considered making a satellite contact? Its not as difficult as it sounds. You'll find a list of Ham Radio Satellites with real time tracking possibilities at:

www.n2yo.com/satellites/?c=18

The Easiest Way To Win A Contest

There are many things a ham can do to become competitive and win contests. You can practice and develop superior operating skills. Invest tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment and antennas. Relocate to a substantial acreage in a prime operating area. Become knowledgeable about propagation.

But I've found a simpler way: Just arrange to be the only entrant in your category. That's how WS7L (with ops Dave W8NF and Carl WS7L) took first place in the multi-operator class for the Oregon section in last fall's CW sweepstakes.

So the lesson is, always send in your contest logs. You never know where you'll place until you try.

Carl WS7L

Why I Resigned Appointments

In January, when our newly elected Board of Directors held its first meeting, I offered my resignation from appointed positions to our new President and Board. What would make me do such a thing? Was I unhappy with the election of our new leaders? Was I tired of serving the club in volunteer capacities? No!

Our club, as with many not-for-profit organizations, operates largely with volunteer energy and time. We use professionals to do jobs we cannot do for ourselves, e.g. handle our annual tax preparation.

Volunteer positions, i.e. those not elected by members annually or biennially, are filled by presidential appointment. Volunteers are understood to serve at the pleasure of the president and board. When there is a presidential change, it is appropriate to allow the new president the freedom to select appointees they choose. Resignations offered by appointees is a customary way to help the new administration. The new president does not have to "ask for resignations" to design the club's leadership. Now you know.

- Everett W6ABM

Precision Time System

Mike Costabile WD4MGP, in a family eye-care business in North Carolina, loved the game of basketball. He played himself in high school and college. He followed in his father's footsteps as a basketball referee. For two decades, Costabile was a basketball official, first for high schools, then at the college level across the Southeast, including the Colonial Athletic Association and the Atlantic Coast Conference. It eventually led to a spot in the NBA rotation.

His NBA career came to a close after a play he called in Philly. He gave Philly a two-shot free throw, a controversial call. That call led to his retirement in 1993. However, it didn't end there. His experience told him there needed to be a better way to call the close ones. Better control of the clock by the floor referees was needed.

"Engineer John Guerrero and I sat down with some others," said Costabile, who credits the inspiration to his ham radio experiences. The Precision Time System was born. Early going it wasn't easy. The Pacific-10 Conference picked it up in 1995. "I took it to the NBA," Costabile said. "The Vice President of basketball operations laughed at me. Then, four years later, they bought it." That VP was Rod Thorn, now president of the New Jersey Nets. Thorn's successor knows why the NBA eventually changed its mind for Costabile's product.

The system consists of two components — a base station receiver, containing a small computer, housed on the sidelines, and a radio transmitter built into a belt pack worn by the official. As the official blows the whistle, the transmitter in the belt pack recognizes the whistle's frequency and instantly sends a message to the base station, connected to the scoreboard controller. As technology improves, so does the system. "We've now taken the system a step further," says Costabile. "We're not only stopping the clock, we're also recording who did, what time they did it and we're logging it — whether it started or stopped, we have that capability."

Since the system was patented nearly 15 years ago, it has become the industry standard for timekeeping in basketball games.



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Everett W6ABM
arsw6abm@gmail.com



Jack Smithson KA7HOJ (Happy Old Jack) is honored by naming Highway 210 after him. Wyoming Highway 210 is a Wyoming State Road known as Happy Jack Road that runs from Cheyenne in Laramie County 10 miles east of Laramie.

SOLAR CYCLE 24

Doomsayers watch out! New solar activity has been logged over the month of March. Sure signs of new Cycle 24 activity are seen regularly now with openings on 10 and 15 meters. The recent CQWPX Contest featured day-long openings on 15 meters with South America open nearly all day on 10 meters. Time to get your HF antennae and rigs ready for improved conditions. We should have a great 5 years ahead of us.

How Not To Work DX

I had just tuned up my amplifier into the dummy load, after changing to 20 meters in last fall's CQWW RTTY contest. I worked XE2K (Mexicali, Baja Mexico) right away but was unable to make any more contacts.

Then, I noticed that I was still on the dummy load. Accidental QRP DX! I switched the antenna and worked CT3FQ (Madeira Island, 540 miles southwest of Lisbon, Portugal) on the first call. But once again, no further contacts.

That's when I discovered I was still on the 40 meter antenna. It got a lot better when I went to the right one. Sometimes paying attention to what you're doing can help a lot!

Carl WS7L

SURVEY ON MEETING LOCATIONS

With the growth of our club we have outgrown our present meeting location. The Board of Directors has determined that a move to a different location is necessary. Several locations have been checked out. Some have food, some do not. Currently, a site that allows much larger attendance is being sought.

As this process moves forward, the Board would like the opinion of each member. Go to this URL to offer your views to the Board.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7CRQWSX>

REGISTER ONLINE FOR SEA-PAC 2010

www.seapac.org

CLUB FREQUENCIES

Simplex: 147.54 MHz

Repeaters: 146.96 MHz (Goat Mtn)

223.94 MHz (Goat Mtn)

440.25 MHz (Goat Mtn)

440.35 MHz (127.3 KGON Tower)

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

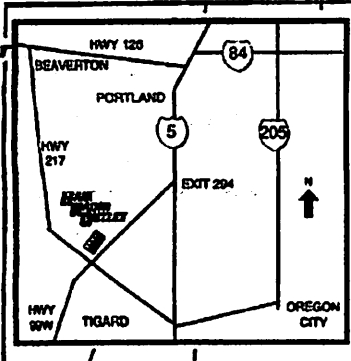
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TWO-CENTS, from Page 1

Al Berg, and Will Sheffield have been our mainstay in Sea-Pac for a number of years. Their countless hours of service provide hams in the Northwestern Division with a hamfest we can all be proud of. Will is now seeking to find someone to fill his shoes. Will wants someone he can train. At our March Club Meeting, he said that it wasn't a hard job, but we know that Will is just being modest. He won't dump this on someone; he wants to be able to mentor someone.

The OTVARC Board of Directors appoints members to the Sea-Pac Committee. If you are interested, please contact me, or a member of the Board, to put your name in the hat.

OTVARC is considering providing a table at Sea-Pac, but we would need volunteers to answer questions, give handouts, and sell tickets if we were to have a drawing. It's up to you! If we get enough volunteers, we'll be able to have a table.

73,
Pat Roberson, N7PAT

SOLAR ENERGY HAS LOCAL LINK

Working to develop a solar system to power your emergency station? There is local development in worldwide solar planning. Ferrotec Corp., a Japan-based firm that makes equipment used in manufacturing both major types of solar PV modules and roof tiles: the crystalline silicon type used most commonly on residential and small-business rooftops, and the thin-film version often deployed in large solar power plants or on larger commercial roofs.

Ferrotec has announced that it will set up a manufacturing plant in a suburb of Portland, that is expected to open by mid-2010. The company is considering a site in Fairview, just east of Portland.
See SOLAR Page 6

FEBRUARY & MARCH VE SESSIONS

February 6 Session

Sixteen applicants earned ten Technician Class licenses; five General Class licenses; and, one Extra Class licenses. Three applicants went "zero to General" at this session. Thanks to examiners Andy KE7AUB; Raul N7BAR; Jim W7JMM; Mark KE7KEI; Russ N7QR; and Dick KA7SPS.

March 6 Session

Eight applicants earned six Technician Class licenses and one General Class license. One applicant missed his General by just one question and will be back. Thanks to Raul N7BAR; Herb K7HLH; and Dick KA7SPS for serving as examiners. Herb is the newest member of our VE team. Welcome, Herb!

Next session is Saturday April 3, 1:00 pm at the Ronler Acres Fire Station.

APE, from Page 1

He was formally the Membership Whip for the SEIU, based in Chicago.

For further information on this story, check your calendar.

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

10 - 11 APRIL 2010

CommAcademy 2010

West. Washington Med Services Team

www.commacademy.org

Marina Zuetell N7LSL

PO Box 15624

Seattle, WA 98115

206-524-6567

n7lsl@arrl.net

8 May 2010

Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Spring Antique Radio Show and Swap Meet

21510 Main St

Aurora Oregon

www.nwvrs.org

4 - 6 JUNE 2010

SEA-PAC**NW Division ARRL Convention**

Seaside Convention Center, Seaside Oregon

www.seapac.org

C. Wayne Schuler AI9Q

16414 NE 21st Street

Vancouver, WA 98684

360-892-5580

ai9q@arrl.net

Your business advertising in THE OSCILLATOR is seen each month by more than 200 members who read THE OSCILLATOR. To include your "Business Card" ad (\$48.00 annually) or "Display" - HRO size ad (\$60.00 annually), contact Maureen O'Rourke at 503.591.9641.



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APRIL LUNCH BUNCH**Saturday April 24th at 1:30 PM**

Panera Bread Cafe

Cedar Hills Crossing

3435 SW Cedar Hills Blvd.

Beaverton, Oregon

503.643.5920

Questions?

Linda KC7YTD

kc7ytd@gmail.com

503.246.8879



May 8

Club 32nd Anniversary

May 14 - 16

Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, Ohio

June 4 - 6

SEA-PAC 28th Annual NW Division Convention

Seaside, Oregon

June 25 - 27

Field Day at Stub Stewart

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY

4	Kenneth Moore	W7GU
5	Gordon Peterson	N7VLW
6	Richard Christie	WA6TVX
12	Mel Sutton	KB7PVW
16	Ron Remsen	W7YOW
18	Wes Allen	K7WWG
19	Darlene Young	KD7FUZ
22	John Tornblad	N7JDT
24	Ernest Johnson	K7EAJ
25	Michael Fuller	K7CIE
26	Sally Butterfield	N7WAL
27	Jeff Repp	KD7EFM

Worked-All-Continents Certificates

The IARU issues Worked-All-Continents Certificates to amateur radio stations around the world that work all six continental areas. Qualification for the WAC award is based on an examination by the International Amateur Radio Union Secretariat, or a member-society, of the IARU of QSL cards that the applicant has received from other amateur stations in each of the six continental areas of the world. All contacts must be made from the same country or separate territory within the same continental area of the world. All QSL cards (no photocopies) must show the mode and/or band for any endorsement applied for.



Contacts made on 10/18/24 MHz or via satellites are void for the 5-band certificate and 6-band endorsement. All contacts for the QRP endorsement must be made on or after January 1, 1985 while running a maximum power of 5 watts output or 10 watts input.

For amateurs in the United States (and in an area without IARU representation) the WAC application forms are available in MS Word <<http://www.iaru.org/wac/wac.doc>> and Adobe PDF <<http://www.iaru.org/wac/wac.pdf>> format. Once completed, applications should be directed to the WAC Awards Manager, ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT USA 06111. After verification, the cards will be returned and the award sent soon afterward. Approved DXCC card checkers can verify WAC program applications. For the latest list of DXCC card checkers, visit <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>>. There is a \$13.00 fee for US applicants. Sufficient return postage, or, a self-addressed stamped envelope, is required for the return of QSL cards. US amateurs must have current ARRL membership. At the present time credits in the ARRL LogBook of The World (LoTW) system cannot be claimed for WAC credit. Applicants who have a current DXCC award in the DXCC computer system can apply for WAC by completing the WAC application form and sending it to the address noted above, listing credits to be claimed on the application form.

SOLAR, from page 4

The plant is expected to have about 30 full-time employees. Another plant, in Hillsboro, is a manufacturing complex that SolarWorld is expanding. SolarWorld produces equipment using monocrystalline silicon solar cells, the most efficient product at converting sunlight into electricity. SolarWorld's crystalline silicon manufacturing operation in Oregon is the largest of that type in the United States. The raw material used is quartz silicon.

Photovoltaic production has been doubling every two years, increasing by an average of 48% per year since 2002. It is the world's fastest-growing energy technology. There has also been substantial investment in pioneering new technologies in order to reduce the cost of PV and improve material efficiencies.

In this case QSL cards are not required. Send questions to wac@arrl.org. For all other amateurs, applicants must be members of their national amateur radio societies <<http://www.iaru.org/iaru-soc.html>> affiliated with IARU <<http://www.iaru.org/>>, and apply through the society.

Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, Oceania are the six continents of the world for Worked All Continents:

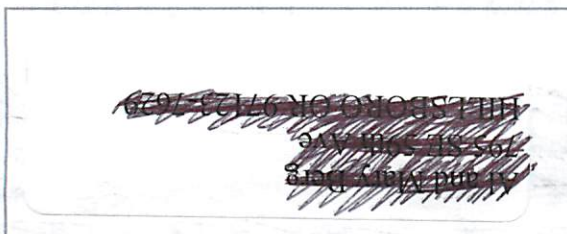
- North America includes Greenland (OX) and Panama (HP).
- South America includes Trinidad & Tobago (9Y), Aruba (P4), Curacao & Bonaire (PJ2-4) and Easter Island (CE0).
- Oceania includes Minami Torishima (JD1), Philippines (DU), Eastern Malaysia (9M6-8) and Indonesia (YB).
- Asia includes Ogasawara Islands (JD1), Maldives (8Q), Socotra Island (7O), Abu Ail Island (J2/A), Cyprus (5B, ZC4), Eastern Turkey (TA2-9) and Georgia (4L).
- Europe includes the fourth and sixth call areas of Russia (R1-6), Istanbul (TA1), all Italian islands (I) and Azores (CU).
- Africa includes Ceuta & Melilla (EA9), Madeira (CT3), Gan Island (8Q), French Austral Territory (FT) and Heard Island (VK0).

YOUR 2010 CLUB LEADERSHIP

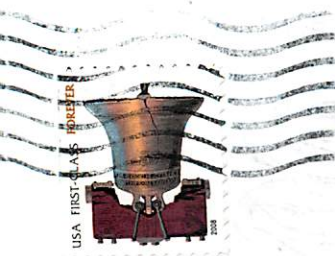
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CLUB MEETING
APRIL 14TH



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